

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 03099 241807Z

67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 MC-02 ACDA-05

IO-11 /114 W

----- 111027

R 241757Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6694

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03099

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GW, SA

SUBJECT: FRG REAFFIRMS RESTRICTIVE ARMS EXPORT POLICY

REFS: (A) BONN 2474 (NOTAL)

(B) JIDDA 1315 (NOTAL)

1. ON FEBRUARY 23 FRG DEPUTY SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD REAFFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S NEGATIVE POSITION CONCERNING POSSIBLE LIBERALIZATION OF THE FRG'S RESTRICTIVE ARMS EXPORT POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED. THE QUESTION TO GRUENEWALD ON THE ARMS EXPORT ISSUE WAS PROBABLY TRIGGERED BY A SHORT ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE FEBRUARY 23 EDITION OF THE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE "DER SPIEGEL". "DER SPIEGEL" REPORTED THAT CHANCELLOR  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 03099 241807Z

SCHMIDT, DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER, ECONOMIC MINISTER

FRIDERICH'S AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, ON THE MARGINS OF THE FEB. 18 CABINET MEETING, HAD REAFFIRMED THE FRG'S RESTRICTIVE POLICY AGAINST EXPORTING GERMAN ARMS TO "AREAS OF TENSION". "DER SPIEGEL" NOTED FURTHER THIS MEANT THAT RHEINSTAHL'S APPLICATION FOR AN EXPORT PERMIT TO SELL 600 MARDER ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS TO SAUDI ARABIA WOULD THUS BE DENIED (REFTELS).

2. VARIOUS GERMAN NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED A DPA WIRE SERVICE REPORT ABOUT THE PROBABLE DENIAL OF THE MARDER EXPORT PERMIT. THE WIRE SERVICE STORY ALSO INCLUDED REFERENCE TO A REPORTED MEETING BETWEEN DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER AND METAL WORKERS' UNION LEADER LODERER DURING WHICH BOTH ALLEGEDLY AGREED THAT THE GERMANS COULD IN NO CASE BECOME DEPENDENT UPON ARMAMENTS CONTRACTS.

3. A FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE HAS INDICATED THAT NO FINAL DECISION HAS YET BEEN REACHED BY THE FRG ON THE RHEINSTAHL APPLICATION, BUT THAT ONE IS EXPECTED SHORTLY FROM THE CHANCELLERY. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE INFORMAL FEB. 18 MEETING WITH THE FOUR FEDERAL MINISTERS COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A MEETING OF THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH EACH MINISTER HAS A SEAT ON THE COUNCIL.

4. COMMENT: REAFFIRMATION OF THE FRG'S RESTRICTIVE ARMS EXPORT POLICY COMES AS NO SURPRISE. THE GERMANS HAVE SENT OUT NEGATIVE SIGNALS PREVIOUSLY (REF A) THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN POLICY. WHILE THE CURRENT POLICY LINE DOES NOT FORECLOSE A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN THE FUTURE, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE FRG WOULD OPT FOR LIBERALIZATION PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER 3 NATIONAL ELECTION, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE DIVISIVENESS SUCH A MOVE WOULD CAUSE WITHIN THE SPD DURING THE CAMPAIGN.  
HILLENBRAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, MILITARY SALES, MILITARY VEHICLES, EXPORT CONTROLS, MUNITIONS CONTROLS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BONN03099  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760069-0926  
**From:** BONN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760221/aaaaarrz.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BONN 2474  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRG REAFFIRMS RESTRICTIVE ARMS EXPORT POLICY  
**TAGS:** MASS, MILI, GE, SA, US, (GRUENEWALD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006